

Japanese Garden / Douglas C. Tillman Water Reclamation Plant Strategic Plan (draft)

Introduction

Purpose of this Strategic Plan is to collaboratively create a five-year roadmap with guidelines for sustainability for the Japanese Garden/Tillman Water Reclamation Plant 2017-2021. To attain this objective, the City of Los Angeles and Japanese Garden/Tillman WRP leadership engaged Kumamoto Associates to work closely with elected and appointed officials, Advisory Committee members, and other stakeholders to solicit staff and stakeholder input through interviews, focus groups, and research data collection and analysis.

Mission (adapted from L.A. Sanitation's original objective for garden)

To advance the Japanese Garden/Douglas C. Tillman Water Reclamation Plant as a positive example of advocacy and leadership in promoting sustainable practices and environmental stewardship.

(Mayor's Citizen Advisory Committee Handbook – Founded 1985)

The Garden's purpose was to demonstrate a positive use of reclaimed water in what is generally agreed to be a delicate environment – a Japanese Garden

(The CAO's Office – File No .143207 – Lease Agreement)

“The City Administrative Officer states that this park (Japanese Garden) will be used to conceal the entrance to the reclamation plant, and deemed necessary by the Department of Recreation for aesthetic reason.

Vision (a suggestion)

A nationally important haven of peace, natural beauty, and learning where tomorrow's leaders are motivated by a deeper understanding and appreciation of how water can enhance and support life.

Core Values

- High quality educational experience that is relevant and practicable
- City/Japanese Garden/community partnerships
- Cultural understanding
- Efficient, cost-effective operating principles
- Public outreach to convey the importance of keeping L.A. clean as a citywide effort
- Educate residents about LASAN services
- Inspire students to help ensure a cleaner, more sustainable future for our City through environment work.

Background

With over four million customers, L.A. Sanitation (LASAN) recognizes the need to educate the public about its services and invests a great deal of time and resources into sharing knowledge across the City to ensure a cleaner, safer L.A. for years to come.

The 6.5 acre Japanese Garden/Tillman WRP was unveiled in Van Nuys in June 1984 to: (1) demonstrate the positive potential for using reclaimed; (2) provide a relaxing environment for the public to enjoy; and (3) establish an attractive “upstream” facility for removing 95% of the water from sewage, which would relieve demand on the "downstream" main Hyperion Water Reclamation Plant in Playa del Rey and forestall the necessity of building another mainline sewage tunnel through the San Fernando Valley. The other 5% of the water would be used to carry biosolids down to the Hyperion facility where they would be processed to generate electricity.

Japanese Garden History

Douglas C. Tillman, the city engineer who proposed the building of the water reclamation plant in the 1970s, was fascinated with Japanese garden design. He was a student of the late Koichi Kawana, a noted Japanese garden designer who taught art and architecture history at UCLA.

Tillman commissioned Dr. Kawana to undertake the garden project at the reclamation plant in the 1980s. Administrator Eugene Greene worked closely with Kawana and helped to implement his designs, which were rooted in the centuries-old precepts of the Japanese culture and fashioned after gardens created for Japan's 17th and 18th century feudal lords.

The Japanese Garden/Tillman WRP is one of 10 designed by Kawana, who pioneered the use of an area's native plants in traditional Japanese gardens. A multi-talented designer, architect, poet, writer, artist, and painter, he was awarded the Japan America Society of Southern California's highest honor, the Victor M. Carter Diamond Award for perpetuating understanding between Japan and the U.S.

Kawana's work is evident throughout America. Among his designs are the *Shofu-en* at Denver Botanic Gardens, Japanese Pavilion Garden at the L.A. County Museum of Art, Stone garden at the Bloedel Reserve, Bainbridge Island, Washington, and the 14-acre *Seiwa-en* in the Missouri Botanical Garden in St. Louis, which was featured in National Geographic magazine.

Born in Hokkaido, Japan, he earned his bachelor's degree from Yokohama Municipal University, master of science and master of fine arts degrees from UCLA, and Ph.D. in landscape design from Pacific Western University.

He passed away in 1990 at the age of 60.

Details of the garden design were carried out with utmost reverence for cultural tradition, which is evident in the garden's rich complement of azaleas, cherry trees, magnolias, weeping willows,

wisteria, irises, lotus and waterlilies. The selection and placement of vegetation were adapted to the Valley's terrain and typically hot, dry summers.

A stroll through the *Siuho-en* ("garden of water and fragrance") soon becomes an introspective journey, enriching one's perception and appreciation of nature, and enabling the visitor to appreciate the variations in Japanese garden styles.

The dry garden, or *karensansui*, close to the main entrance, is spread with gravel symbolizing the ocean and the swirling patterns raked on its surface express the waves and the moods of the sea. The *chisen-kaiyushiki* style ("wet garden with promenade") is open and bright, revealing new, unexpected vistas of the garden, its lakes, and mythical islands of good fortune.

Methodology (this area will discuss how data was collected)

Primary Goals (based on the data collected through interviews, questionnaires, etc.)

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT –

ORGANIZATIONAL EXCELLENCE –

FUNDING RESOURCES & BUDGET PLANNING

EDUCATION PROGRAMS –

(Mayor's Advisory Committee Handbook – 1985)

The main program is the Garden Tour Program. The tours of the Garden and the Water Reclamation Plant are open to the public and are conducted by the volunteer docents.

COMMUNICATION & ADVOCACY –

AUDIENCE ENGAGEMENT –

